VI. *Extract of a Letter from* Stephen Williams, *M. B. F. R. S. concerning the* Viper-catchers, (*mention'd in* N° 443. *of theſe* Tranſactions) *and the Efficacy of* Oil of Olives *in curing the* Bite *of* Vipers.

Plymouth, July 2, 1735.

——*William Oliver*, in Preſence of ſeveral Gentlemen of the Faculty of Phyſick, ſuffer'd himſelf, on *June* 26, 1735. to be bit by a Female *Viper*; which being enraged, fix'd her Fangs in the middle Part of his Fore-finger. Blood ſoon iſſued out at the Wounds: But that the Poiſon might more ſtrongly appear, the ſame *Viper* immediately bit a *Pigeon* in the Breaſt, which expired in leſs than half an Hour. Another *Pigeon* was alſo bit by the ſame *Viper*, which expired alſo, though not ſo ſoon as the firſt. Mr. *Oliver* immediately complain'd of an acute Pain in the wounded Part. It ſoon look'd red, then became of a livid Colour: His Finger ſwell'd to a great Size, and he could not bend it. Soon upon this his Hand alſo began to ſwell: He complain'd of Faintneſs, and Pains flying to his Arm, Shoulder, and Armpit. In half an Hour's Time from the Bite, we perſuaded him to try his Specifick; which being applied, and ſtrongly rubbed into the Part affected, procured him immediate Eaſe. His Pain leſſen'd, his Finger became flexible, his Spirits ſeem'd more chearful: The Specifick being ſeveral times repeated and applied, his Pains gradually diminiſh'd. The next Day, *June* 27, his Finger and Hand remain'd tumefied, but without

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without Pain: The Skin began to appear yellow, and Puſtles appear'd, like Bladders, on his Finger; which being prick'd, emitted a ſanious Liquor. In two Days time all his Symptoms vaniſh'd, and he became perfectly well.

June 30, the Gentlemen of the Faculty met again, when we tried ſeveral Experiments on *Puppies*, *Cats*, and *Pigeons*; wherein we found the Efficacy of Mr. *Oliver*'s Specifick, and gave the Company great Satisfaction. I therefore . . . . . recommend him to Lovers of Natural Philoſophy, and ſuch who ſtudy the Benefit of Mankind. I think he deſerves Encouragement, that the Specifick may be more univerſally known.

Ste. Williams, *M. B. F. R. S.*

VII. *A* Propoſal *for the Meaſurement of the* Earth *in* Ruſſia, *read at a Meeting of the* Academy *of* Sciences *of* St. Petersbourg, Jan. 21. 1737. *by* Mr Joſ. Nic. de L'Iſle, *firſt Profeſſor of Aſtronomy, and F. R. S. Tranſlated from the* French *printed at St.* Petersbourgh, 1737. 4to. *By* T. S. *M. D. F. R. S.*

NEceſſity, or the Exigencies of Geography and Navigation, put Mankind very early upon the Enterprize of meaſuring the Earth. For how is it poſſible to conſtruct the Charts of each Kingdom or Empire, without ſetting down all the Places in